

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 14, 2007 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claim 4 has been amended for clarification purposes. No new subject matter has been added. Claims 1-15 and 17-24 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

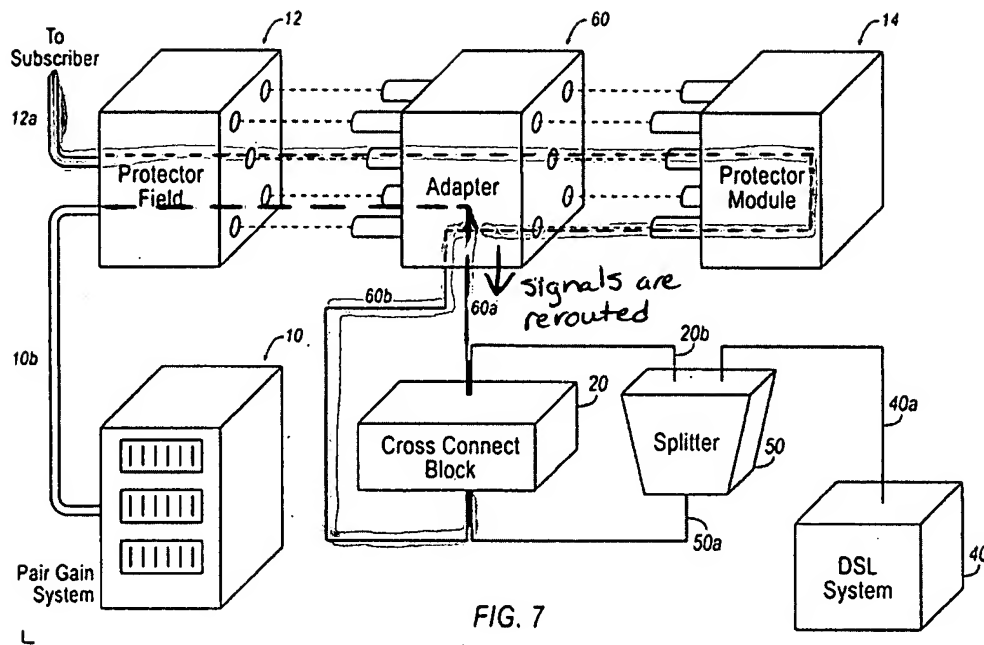
I. Claims 1-13, 15, and 17-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bremer et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0042510 A1) in view of Pelegris (U.S. Patent 5,410,443). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Bremer discloses a DSL arrangement including a cross-connect box 17550. Bremer, however, does not disclose an adapter that interfaces with a protector field and a protector module connected to the adapter. Pelegris is utilized for its disclosure of a protection station 10 having an adapter 12 and a protector module 22.

A. Claims 1-3 and 21-22

Claim 1 recites a system including an adapter that interfaces with a protector field, and a protector module connected to the adapter. A pair gain signal transmitted through the protector field is rerouted by the adapter to a cross-connect block and then back to said protector field through the protector module.

Referring to Applicants' annotated FIG. 7 below, claim 1 requires that a pair gain signal transmitted through the protector field be rerouted by the adapter to a cross-connect block (represented through the adapter by a long-dash line). Further as required by claim 1, the adapter then routes the pair gain signal back to the protector field through the protector module (represented through the adapter by the short-dash line).



Pelegris does not teach or suggest that the adapter 12 is capable of re-routing a signal to a cross-connect block or any other system component other than the protector module 22. In other words, signals to the adapter 12 of Pelegris simply pass through the adapter 12 to the protector module 22; the adapter 12 does not first reroute the signal, as illustrated by the long-dash line above. Pelegris therefore does not meet the recited limitations of claim 1 to properly establish a prima facie case for obviousness. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, and dependent claims 2-3 and 21-22 are patentable.

Further, with regards to claim 22, Applicants respectfully note that the adapter 12 of Pelegris includes two legs 80, 82 that latch within two screw-in wells 20, 21 of the protector station 10. No where does Pelegris teach or suggest that the adapter 12 has 5 pins; rather that adapter 12 has only two legs that occupy the screw-in wells 20, 21 of the protector station 10. Also, it is respectfully submitted that protector module 22 does not in fact normally occupy the screw-in wells 20, 21 of the protector station 10. While the

screw-in wells can receive gas-tube arresters 18, the wells do not receive the protector module 22, as required by claim 22. **Applicants request further details of the basis for this rejection.**

B. Claims 4-13

Claim 4 recites a system including an adapter that directly interfaces with a protector field, and a protector module that indirectly interfaces with the protector field through the adapter. A pair gain signal transmitted through the protector field is rerouted by the adapter to a cross-connect block and then back to the protector field through the protector module. For similar reasons as discussed above with regards to claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 4, and dependent claims 5-13 are patentable.

Further, with regards to claims 7-13, the Examiner states that Bremer discloses first and second two-way routes for communication of a pair gain signal from a pair gain system through a cross block and through a splitter, respectively; and further that Bremer discloses a disruptor that selectively activates one of the first and second routes. The Examiner points generally to paragraph 22 of Bremer as basis for rejecting the limitation concerning a disruptor. Paragraph 22, however, simply discusses possible causes of impedance mismatch problems in transmission lines. It is submitted that no where does Bremer disclose a disruptor that selectively activates one of two routes between a pair gain system and either a cross block or a splitter. **Applicants again request further details of the basis for this rejection.**

C. Claims 15, 17-20, and 23-24

Claim 15 recites a method of delivering DSL including connecting an adapter to a protector field, and connecting a protector module to the adapter. As previously discussed, Pelegris discloses a protector station 10, an adapter 12 that secures to the protector station 10, and a protector module 22 that connects to the adapter 12.

Claim 15 further recites, however, that the adapter establishes a communication loop with a cross connect block. The adapter 12 of Pelegris is not configured to establish

such a communication loop; instead, the adapter only communicates with the protector module 22.

Claim 15 also recites that a pair gain signal passing through the protector field is diverted to the cross connect block. Pelegris does not teach or suggest the provision of any such diverting component.

Claim 15 still further recites that all output signals from the cross connect block are routed through the protector module and to the protector field; in other words, the protector module receives signals from the cross connect block, which are then routed from the protector module to the protector field. The protector module 22 of Pelegris only receives and returns signal from the adapter 12/protector station 10; and there is no teaching that the protection module 22 could receives signals other than those from only the adapter 12/protector station 10.

Pelegris does not meet the recited limitations of claim 15 to properly establish a prima facie case for obviousness. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claim 15, and dependent claims 17-20 and 23-24 are patentable.

Further, with regards to claim 24, Applicants respectfully note that the adapter 12 of Pelegris includes two legs 80, 82 that latch within two screw-in wells 20, 21 of the protector station 10. No where does Pelegris teach or suggest that the adapter 12 has 5 pins; rather that adapter 12 has only two legs that occupy the screw-in wells 20, 21 of the protector station 10. Also, it is respectfully submitted that protector module 22 does not in fact normally occupy the screw-in wells 20, 21 of the protector station 10. While the screw-in wells can receive gas-tube arresters 18, the wells do not receive the protector module 22, as required by claim 24. **Applicants request further details of the basis for this rejection.**

II. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pelegris (U.S. Patent 5,410,443) in view of Bremer et al. (U.S. Publication 2004/0042510 A1) and further in view of Kozel et al. (U.S. Patent 5,551,889). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 14 depends upon claim 1. In view of the remarks regarding

independent claim 1, further discussion regarding the independent patentability of dependent claim 14 is believed to be unnecessary. Applicants submit that dependent claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 1-15 and 17-24) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Although certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentably distinct. Applicants reserve the right to raise these arguments in the future.



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Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen A. Fitzsimmons". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

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